

system of the Canadas is derived from the American commerce which circulates through it; while, on the other hand, their own commerce with the world abroad can only be conducted at exceeding disadvantage, if at all, for five months of the year, otherwise than across the territory of the United States, and by the privilege of the customs regulations of the American government."

If, therefore, the Dominion desires to increase its vital force to promote immigration and permanent settlement, and to develop the unquestioned mineral resources of the country, she must invite our carrying trade, by offering it superior facilities—must open such channels and build such railroads as will accommodate it; and must manage them in such a way and for such rates of toll as will transport our products through her territory cheaper and more expeditiously than it can be done over our own. Why, then, should we endanger our industries and involve ourselves in entanglements with England from which war alone can relieve us, as consideration for Canada doing that without doing which she cannot live and grow?

Our True Position on the Question.

The trade between the Dominion and us cannot, from the very nature of things, be reciprocal while she continues to be a part of the British Empire, and can only become so when the same flag shall wave over both countries, and the people of each shall bear their share of the burdens imposed upon us by the recent war, which the Canadians did so much to prolong. Then labor in either country will find equal rewards, which it now does not. Meanwhile, ladies and gentlemen, I say to you, as I said to the House of Representatives on the 7th of March, 1866, "Let us maintain our rights, our interests, and our country's dignity. Let us go on our way as though there were no British provinces, and the mere action of British legislation constraining their people to unrequited agricultural labor will make them sigh for our prosperity, and then we shall find that the American Constitution is as elastic as it is grand and enduring. It has expanded to embrace immense tracts of territory. Our flag has swept from the limits of the original thirteen States to the Pacific and southward to the Rio Grande; and, sir when the people of Canada shall, as they will if we protect our labor, ask to unite their destinies with ours, the world will receive additional proof that when Providence impelled our fathers to the creation of our government, it gave them the wisdom to bless us with a Constitution which is the fit canopy of a continent, and will yet crown one."

Here I should pause, but you will bear with me a few minutes